



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
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Release No.: 07072004-1

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FUNDING WORKSHOPS FOR FAITH-BASED, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO BE HELD AROUND STATE

Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Monroe, and Shreveport

ALEXANDRIA, LA, July 7, 2004 – USDA Rural Development will be hosting workshops around the state for faith-based non-profit organizations interested in learning more about USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program opportunities.

In April 2004, Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman unveiled a new USDA faith-based and community organization initiative to educate nonprofit organizations on the community facilities program and connect them to local lending institutions.

“To further support our nation’s rural communities, these workshops will help faith-based and community organizations get the information they need about available resources,” said Veneman. “This administration remains committed to helping faith-based and community organizations get access to federal resources to enhance their capacity to serve their communities.”

USDA Rural Development’s community facility loan guarantee program allows lenders to finance and facilitate essential community facilities such as health care clinics, police and fire stations, schools, and child care centers. Through this program, USDA can provide a lender a guarantee of up to 90 percent of the total loan amount. In fiscal year 2003, the average loan guarantee was \$1.6 million with a range from \$55,000 to \$22.5 million.

Workshops will be conducted in the following communities:

July 8, 2004 – Baton Rouge, Louisiana – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Louisiana Municipal Association Office Building

700 North 10th Street, Room 2

To register for this workshop, call: (985) 748-8751, extension 6

July 9, 2004 – Lafayette, Louisiana – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center

646 Cajundome Boulevard, Room 119

To register for this workshop: (337) 262-6601, extension 113

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07/07/04

July 13, 2004 – Monroe, Louisiana – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

ULM Athletic Center – ULM Stadium

University of Louisiana at Monroe

308 Stadium Drive

To register for this workshop, call: (318) 343-4467, extension 4

July 14, 2004 – Shreveport, Louisiana – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

The Coordinating and Development Corporation

Metro/Regional Business Incubator

7100 West Park Road

To register for this workshop, call: (318) 352-7100, extension 4

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

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